



## The Collection

In 1 Corinthians 16:1-2, Paul wrote, *“Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given orders to the churches of Galatia, so you must do also: On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come.”*

Nothing is surprising about this text. It relates an obligation that we have to support the Lord’s work in a systemic and regular way. It denotes the Lord’s day as the day when the collection will be taken. We know this to be the day that Christians came together to worship the Lord (cf. Acts 20:7). It states an obligation that we help those in our number (other Christians) who have a physical need (cf. Galatians 6:10).

This is the only place in scripture where there is a pattern established for this financial obligation we as Christians are given toward the Lord’s work. There are other places which give authority to practice benevolence, to support efforts of evangelism and to edify the church, but here alone is the passage that tells us how money is to be gathered in the local church.



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TODAY'S BULLETIN

What remains is for us to do our duty in a manner that the Holy Spirit prescribes. *“So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver”* (2 Corinthians 9:7).

Tri-Annual Singing ~ February 15, 2025 @ 7:00pm

# Old Fashioned Justice

The Old Testament taught a harsh form of justice, especially under certain circumstances. For example, if two men fight, with the pregnant wife of one man losing her child, Exodus 21:23-25 states, *“then you shall give life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, burn for burn, wound for wound, stripe for stripe.”*

Things are different under the New Covenant. That doesn't mean that the civil government does not have a responsibility to impose punishment (sometimes harsh) upon the evildoer. *“Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves. For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same. For he is God's minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil. Therefore you must be subject, not only because of wrath but also for conscience' sake”* (Romans 13:2-5).

Note especially the words *“...he is God's minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil.”* There is no scripture that indicates it is immoral or inappropriate for any nation to exercise harsh penalties (even the death penalty) for egregious crimes. This is indicated in the words, *“for he does not bear the sword in vain”* as a minister of God.

However, our individual response to such ungodliness is much different. Jesus, in His sermon on the mount, said this, *“You have heard that it was said, An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ But I tell you not*

## Matthew 2:19-23

After Matthew records the departure of the young Jesus to Egypt (a fulfillment of Hosea 11:1), the massacre of the infants in Bethlehem, and finally the death of Herod; an angel appeared to Joseph to return with the child and His mother back to Israel.

However, Joseph was afraid to return to Judea because the son of Herod, Archelaus was reigning the place of his father. Apparently Joseph's fear was legitimate as God warned him in a dream about the danger there, and Joseph instead turned to Galilee.

The city of Nazareth was where Joseph settled, and where Jesus was raised. In fact, he was often referred to and known as Jesus of Nazareth in the New Testament. Nathanael, in John 1:46 asked about Jesus, "*Can anything good come out of Nazareth?*" Indicating the city did not have a good reputation in Israel at the time.

This was also a fulfillment of a prophecy concerning the Christ. "*He shall be called a Nazarene*", which was written hundreds of years previously, in Judges 13:5.

*to resist an evil person. But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also. If anyone wants to sue you and take away your tunic, let him have your cloak also. And whoever compels you to go one mile, go with him two. Give to him who asks you, and from him who wants to borrow from you do not turn away"* (Matthew 5:38-42).

As Christians, we are to leave the old fashioned justice to those in authority. Our response should always be spiritual in nature, with an emphasis on brotherly love, kindness, longsuffering and patience. Consider that it may even be a way in which we are tested! "*My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing*" (James 1:2-4). God expects a lot from us regarding our spiritual integrity!

# Sanctification

God is Holy. The Psalmist proclaimed, *“Exalt the Lord our God, And worship at His holy hill; for the Lord our God is holy”* (Psalm 99:9).

Because God is holy, supplicants who approach Him must be holy as well.

Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, profaned themselves before God when they offered up strange fire by way of sacrifice. In punishment, God took their lives. “And Moses said to Aaron, ‘This is what the Lord spoke, saying: *“By those who come near me I must be regarded as holy; and before all people I must be glorified.”*’ So Aaron held his peace” (Leviticus 10:3).



This call to holiness is fully realized in the term *sanctification*. The term *sanctification* is used, as pointed out by **Vine**, of (a) separation to God; (b) the course of life befitting those so separated. (pg. 317).

The first point, that we have been **separated to God**, is indicated clearly in 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14, *“But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth, to which He called you by our gospel, for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.”* God chose us to be separate from the

world, and called us by his gospel. Paul stated this clearly in Ephesians 1 as he indicated that God chose us in Christ *“before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love”* (vs. 4). Those who respond to the gospel of Christ, through baptism, die to sin and are reconciled to God. They are sanctified.

The second point, that **our lives should befit those who are separated to God**, indicates a need for holiness, which is intrinsic in the term. As the apostle Paul pointed out in calling the Thessalonians to moral purity, *“possess [-ing] his own vessel in sanctification and honor, not in passion of lust, like the Gentiles who do not know God”*, when he wrote, *“For God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness”* (1 Thessalonians 4:4-5, 7). Because we are called to God, we should live holy lives. As Paul wrote, *“For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age”* (Titus 2:11-12).

Such a call to live holy lives is not arbitrary, it is founded in God’s character. *“But as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, ‘Be holy, for I am holy’”* (1 Peter 1:15-16). Too often in our time the concept of morality is considered arbitrary and antiquated. Some reason that it may have served man in times past, but in our enlightened time, we have no need of unchanging standards based upon religious faith. To these foolish people, morality is situational, and virtues such as honesty, modesty, humility,

and temperance are to be utilized only as they serve the whim of the individual. In response to such thinking the prophet Jeremiah wrote, “*O Lord, I know the way of man is not in himself; it is not in man who walks to direct his own steps*” (Jeremiah 10:23).

Because God is holy, his call for man to be holy is proper. “*I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, **which is your reasonable service**. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God*” (Romans 12:1-2).

We are to live moral lives because God is holy. We are to conform our teaching to God’s will because God is holy. We are to dress with propriety and modesty because God is holy. We are to be reverent before God in worship and demeanor because God is holy.

Every aspect of our lives is impacted by God’s holiness. The perfect sinlessness of the Son of God should ever be before us. “*For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps: ‘Who committed no sin, Nor was deceit found in His mouth’*” (1 Peter 2:21-22). The holiness of God is awesome, and should inspire in us a quiet reverence, and a holy life.

“*But the Lord is in His holy temple. Let all the earth keep silence before Him*” (Habakkuk 2:20).

# News and Notes

## Personal Work Group 1 meets today

- **Funeral.** The funeral for sister Margaret Wood was held on Thursday. Our thanks to all who were able to attend. Please keep Debbie and the family in your prayers.
- **Ill.** *Linda Cox* has some issues with her COPD. Please pray that the steroids and antibiotics, with God's help will get her back on her feet. *Naomi Narmore* has begun to suffer again from pretty severe nausea. She is under stress at work, and asked us for prayers to handle this, as well as to

get to feeling better as soon as possible... *Stan Cox* is scheduled for a surgical consult on January 21, and surgery shortly after. Please pray for him and Debbie.

- **Group changes.** The changes to the personal work groups have been made (for the next six months). You can see the new assignments on the TV at the front of the auditorium, and on sheets in the foyer. If you need to talk to Stan about an adjustment, please feel free.
- **Out of Town.** *Tommy Davis* left town on business for the next several weeks on Thursday. Pray for a safe return!

## Permanent Prayer List

### Chronically or Seriously ill

- Tommie Blackstock
- Stan Cox
- Mary Dean
- Arlene Holt
- Jack Holt
- Charlene Garner

### Shut-ins

Hope Doss / Jo Wilson

### Others

- Laynie Holland
- Dennis Scroggins
- Abigail Saltz
- Gwen Matney
- Ed Matney
- Chip Foster
- Bruce Tilley
- Dalton Vilares

# For the Members

Events Calendar    Attendance Sheet



## Meetings — 2025

May 10-15

*Reagan McClenny*

Lufkin, Texas

Fall 2025 - Bruce Reeves

## Tri-Annual Singings

7:00 — 8:30 pm

**February 15, 2025**

June 21, 2025

October 18, 2025

## Men We Support

Thandu Moses

Arogyaswami Viyabhaskar  
(India)

Admire Makuwe  
(Zimbabwe)

## Last Sunday's Record

Attendance

53

Contribution

\$1,981

## West Side church of Christ

6110 White Settlement Road

Fort Worth, TX 76114

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## Schedule of Services

### Sunday

- 9:00 am (Morning Worship)
- 10:00 am (Bible Classes)
- 11:00 am (Lord's Supper/Worship)

### Wednesday

- 7:30 pm (Evening Bible Study)

**Remember Ladies' Class and  
Men's classes when scheduled!**

### Sign up for our West Side news texts

Text @stancox to: 469-208-6443

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